

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Military Information: Special Units of the North Korean People's Army

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. The North Korean People's Army now has some special combat units which were organized under the direction of the Soviet army. Each of these units has a nucleus of Korean troops who fought in Manchuria with the Korean Volunteer Army, now known as the Northeast Korean People's Liberation Army.
2. In June 1948, the "Holy Invasion Unit" (Song Chin Tae 聖進隊), an infantry unit of 10,000 (?) men, was organized in the Sariwon (125-44, 38-30) area. This unit is also known as the "Tiger Unit" (Ho Cha Pu Tae 虎子部) and is now being trained under the direction of Captain Ivanov of the 139 Construction Unit of the Soviet army in North Korea. One half of the troops of this unit have Soviet weapons; the remainder have Japanese weapons. Elements of the "Song Chin Tae" are now assisting Soviet army troops in patrolling the area along the 38th parallel.
3. In June 1948, the "Communist Fighting Unit" (Kong San Chon T'u Tae 共產戰鬥隊) and the "Front Line Operations Unit" (Chon Son Kong Chak Tae 前線工作隊) were also organized in the Pyongyang area as part of the People's Army. Both units are being trained under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Nikolai, Lieutenant Poddzhi and five other unidentified Soviet army officers. The total strength of the two units is 20,000 (?), including an undetermined number of Japanese and Chinese who were formerly with the Japanese Kwantung Army in Manchuria. The "Communist Fighting Unit" is an infantry unit. The "Front Line Operations Unit" is a reconnaissance unit which is also being trained to do political and reconstruction work in areas captured from the enemy. The "Front Line Operations Unit" is under the control of the Political Department of the Soviet army headquarters in Pyongyang.

4. In June 1948, an undetermined number of special units, with a total strength of 15,000 (?), were activated at Hoeryong (Kainei) (129-45, 42-25) as part of the People's Army and sent to the Pyongyang area for training. After the completion of their training, all these troops returned to Hoeryong. From Hoeryong 10,000 of the troops were recently sent to Tumen, Manchuria. Half of the troops sent to Tumen were then sent to join the Chinese Communist 6 Column, and the other half to join the Chinese Communist 8 Column. Comment. that on 9 July the West 8 Column was in the Funing, 119-13, 39-54 area.)

In June 1948, a special unit of undetermined size was activated in the Wonsan (127-26, 39-10) area as part of the People's Army. Recently, it was sent to the Hoeryong area to replace those troops which had left for Tumen.

Comment. in February 1948, the number of recruits for the Northeast Korean People's Liberation Army in Hoeryong was steadily increasing.)

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